

### (1) Peace with Taliban...

including the Taliban, were of the view that they could not win the war and the Afghan government wanted a political settlement.

"We say we want a political settlement. We lead the international forces that are in Afghanistan. So, given that, this may be a moment of opportunity," he remarked. Referring to US goals in Afghanistan, he said staying in Afghanistan militarily was not an end in itself for the US.

"Our objective has been the preclusion of use of Afghan territory by terrorists against us. So if we can be satisfied that we can handle the terrorist threat with less force – ultimately, of course, we want an Afghanistan that is sovereign, self-reliant, with no foreign forces on it."

When asked about Pakistan's unchanged behavior despite pressures, Khalilzad added: "We want to assure them – and I have engaged them that we are not seeking an Afghanistan as the result of a political settlement that's hostile to them."

"We want Afghanistan to be at peace with itself, but also at peace with the neighborhood, and at peace with us in terms of the terrorism threat," he said. (Pajhwok)

### (2) Regional Cooperation...

the path to sustainable peace in Afghanistan depends heavily on two key principles – regional cooperation, which is key for national development and stability; and a commitment to pluralism – the country's diversity must be cultivated as a source of strength. Everyone in all regions should benefit from investment that creates hope for the future. This is a guiding principle of our investment in Afghanistan".

"I have always maintained that my institutions would make a permanent commitment to the country. Therefore, on behalf of the Ismaili Imam and the Aga Khan Development Network, I underline, once again, our enduring commitment to Afghanistan and to its peoples," he said.

"To foster regional integration, we have expanded the transmission lines of Pamiir Energy from Tajikistan into Northern Afghanistan, providing some villages with power for the first time. We will soon start work on a sixth cross-border bridge and market between those countries, and are in advanced discussions to increase substantially electrification from the border to Faizabad," he said. (Pajhwok)

### (3) Parties Defiant...

concern is that this process moves forward very slowly and it is against the principles defined by the commission itself," said Asadullah Sadati, member of the political committee of political parties. Meanwhile, political parties said that transparency was not considered while announcing the preliminary election results.

So far, the IEC has announced the preliminary results of 13 provinces. "Voters list was the base, anyone who participated in the voter registration process whether their votes were biometric or without biometric, but their names were present on the list, their votes have been counted," said Sayed Zabiullah Sadat, deputy spokesman for IEC.

The political parties emphasized that the results of votes in localities and provinces where biometric and non-biometric votes were blended will not be acceptable. According to IEC, at least three million votes were casted through proper biometric identification devices.

But watchdogs have accused the IEC of not providing details on the biometric and non-biometric votes. (Tolo news)

### (4) Trade volume between...

improving bilateral cooperation on education to train educational experts by Kazakhstan educational institutions.

Sustainable business partnership between the two countries is the high result of cooperation between Kazakhstan and Afghanistan. According to the results of the first half of 2018, the trade volume between Kazakhstan and Afghanistan has increased by 20 percent, the ambassador pointed out.

The ambassador of Kazakhstan emphasizing on cultural between the two countries said that the cultural and humanitarian cooperation between the two countries would further improve. He highlighted that based on bilateral agreement between Kazakhstan and Afghanistan signed on 22 November, 2009, on education about 1000 technical experts in the fields of technology, health, education, agriculture, culture, Arts have been trained so far.

ALIMKHAN YESSENGELDIYEV, the ambassador of Kazakhstan added that, In line with developing relations between Kazakhstan and Afghanistan, that is highly important for us, I would like to highlight the vital role of Kazakhstan as the non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council in 2017-2018, the director of the UNSC Committee on Afghanistan, on providing the timely and effective support of the international community to achieve sustainable peace and economic development in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. To this end, Kazakhstan proposed the special travel of the members of the SC that was successfully conducted. SC members had a similar travel to Afghanistan in 2001. This travel fostered the activities of the SC and other international organizations to expedite and scientifically address the current challenges in Afghanistan (DOA).

### (5) US Shows New...

also been added to the display and are located next to the anti-tank guided missiles. These weapons were recovered in Helmand, near Kandahar Air Field, by the Afghan National Army from the Taliban. Iran has been providing materiel support to the Taliban since at least 2007. These same rockets have been used by Hamas in the past," he added.

Giving more details on the weaponry, he said: "To my left is a new unmanned aerial system: the Shahed 123. We have debris from a Shahed which was recovered by coalition forces in Afghanistan after it crashed, as well as Shahed components that were interdicted in Yemen in early 2018."

The presentation, the second such one in the last year, is part of a government-wide effort to follow through on Trump's policy to take a far harder line toward Tehran.

The US president pulled the United States out of the Iran nuclear deal and reimposed sanctions, in part for its "malign" regional activities.

Iran has often denied any aid to the Taliban in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, Iran has denied supplying the Houthis in Yemen with such weaponry and described the Pentagon's previous arms display as "fabricated."

TOLONews reporter could not reach the Embassy of Iran in Kabul to get a comment on this report.

Taliban in a statement has labeled the US findings as "baseless". (Tolo news)

### (6) Kunduz Gathering...

to work for peace.

"Today, more than 500 people from northeastern provinces including Kunduz, Badakhshan, Takhar and Baghlan have gathered here to pay tribute to Gen. Raziq and meanwhile we decided to form a commission to discuss peace and work thoroughly in this respect," said Haji Zahir, a tribal elder from Kunduz.

"The participants announced their support to peace because our people deserve peace and they said they support any process which brings security and peace to the country," said Marzia Rustami, a

resident of Kunduz.

The remarks come as President Ashraf Ghani announced government's peace plan at Geneva Conference on Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad on Wednesday said that the Afghan people deserve peace and that they are at war for 40 years.

"We are in hurry to end the Afghan tragedy," Khalilzad said in an interview with US's PBS news agency. (Tolo news)

### (7) Geneva Summit...

efforts to enhance security.

The participants remained determined to counter all forms of terrorism as fundamental threats to international peace and security and reaffirmed those responsible for committing, organizing or supporting terrorist acts must be held accountable. (Pajhwok)

### (8) UAE Highlights...

their commitment to mutual accountability and the implementation of a joint commitment between the Afghan Government and the international community, to create a political, social and economic environment that will enable Afghanistan to achieve peace, security and sustainable development.

In his speech, Al Marar stated that the UAE's participation in the conference confirms its ongoing commitment to the Afghan people, as well as its keenness to reinforce Afghanistan's sovereignty independence, peace and unity.

He added that the UAE condemns the terrorist attacks that took place during the last Afghan elections while reiterating the country's support for the political process and its appreciation of the efforts of Ashraf Ghani, President of Afghanistan, to begin peace talks and urge all Afghan citizens to participate in the talks and make it succeed.

He also highlighted the necessity of the participation of neighbouring countries in Afghanistan's national reconciliation efforts, to establish the country's security and stability, as their negative participation is a hurdle to achieving sustainable security.

Al Marar also addressed the UAE's efforts to coordinate with neighbouring countries and urge their governments to respect the rights of refugees while underlining the country's ongoing efforts to reinforce the role of Afghan women and the youth.

He then pointed out that the UAE has always supported Afghanistan, and the value of its development aid amounted to around US\$414 million.

At the end of his speech, Al Marar affirmed the UAE's commitment to Afghanistan and its people, in line with its foreign policy that is based on promoting international peace and stability and combatting terrorism. (WAM)

### (9) OSCE Consulting...

common challenges and threats, primarily international terrorism and extremism, drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and illegal migration," she said.

The First Secretary of the Embassy of Afghanistan Mohammad Hassan Aman thanked the OSCE Centre for its ongoing work in the area of border security and management, and emphasized its contribution to promoting cooperation between Turkmenistan and Afghanistan.

Istvan Samu, an international expert from Hungary underscored that the partners involved need to have common goals and interests for the inter-agency co-operation to be effective and beneficial.

Shahriniso Najmetdinova-Scott, an independent Consultant on Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism, elaborated on the different types of transnational threats, such as terrorism, and placed special attention to the phenomenon of

harmful gender stereotypes.

Seppo Turkia, an international expert from Finland, acquainted the participants with the work of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) and Finnish best practices in inter-agency co-operation.

Taras Seredyuk and Henadzi Aleksiyuk from the State Border Guard Committee of the Republic of Belarus also shared their practices and experiences on inter-agency co-operation.

The workshop was organized with financial support from the governments of Germany, Italy and Japan, and is the third in a series of joint Turkmen-Afghan workshops held this year within the Centre's extra-budgetary project.

This project component will conclude with a three-day joint Turkmen-Afghan Workshop on fighting cross-border crimes and countering drugs, psychoactive substances and precursors scheduled for December 4-6, 2018 in Ashgabat. (Trend)

### (10) President Ghani...

affairs, David Hale, urged all sides to "seize this opportunity: to move toward peace." Hale called on the Taliban to "commit to a cease-fire and appoint an authoritative negotiating team."

"All of us need to facilitate the inter-Afghan dialogue," said Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who expressed concerns about the drug trade across the region's borders.

Zarif also said the "presence of foreign military forces has never brought stability in our region and has historically provided a recruiting ground for extremists."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Moscow hoped for an end of Afghanistan's "fratricidal war" and voiced concerns over militant attacks by the Islamic State extremist group in the country.

On November 27, the first day of the two-day Geneva conference, the European Union announced 474 million euros (\$535 million) in financial aid for Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

### (11) 26 of Detained...

those released were children. He said 27 children, who had been arrested by police during the demonstration for their own security, were released at the request of their parents.

Meanwhile, second vice-president Sarwar Danish on his Facebook page wrote that he met with elders, influential figures and the youth from the west of Kabul.

The visiting people urged Danish to help release those detained during the protest demonstration against the detention of Alipur.

The VP assured the visitors that detained persons who were under age and school going would be discussed with the relevant organs to ensure justice. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Kabul, Daikundi...

the purpose of organizing rally in Kabul was to end violence against women in the country.

The rally portrayed slogans "Say no to violence against women", "Women should be involved in government decision making", "Women should be part of political and cultural activities".

Mazia Hamdard, head of the Gender Department, in Daikundi said they organised rally to help reduce violence against women.

"In Daikundi, unfortunately women made victims of different kinds of violence, for the reduction of violence these programmes were effective," she said.

Sediqua Ahmadi, a women activist, said: "Statistics provided by the government officials showed that the incidents of violence increased day by day which showed that still women are consider second gender and weak." (Pajhwok)

### (13) Govt's Negotiating...

some political parties said that the negotiating team should have been comprised of representatives from

political parties, civil society, and tribal elders.

"Over the last 17 years, they [the Taliban] refuse to negotiate with the government. The team which has been introduced should have had representatives of political parties, civil society, and tribal elders," said Abdul Satar Murad, a member of Jamiat-e-Islami party.

This comes as the Taliban has rejected the government's negotiating team and insisted on having direct talks with the United States. (ATN)

### (14) Taliban Infighting...

villages in Shindand district in the province.

He said the fighting continued for many hours.

He said the infighting was between the Taliban factions of Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada and Mullah Rasul.

He said that at least 18 fighters were killed from Mullah Hibatullah's faction led by Mullah Samad and seven others were wounded.

Farhad said that government forces deployed to the area to suppress the militants and ensure security there.

According to him, Maj. Mateen, Operational Commander of the National Directorate of Security Unit in Herat was killed when he was hit by a bullet during the clashes.

The two factions of the Taliban have fought against each other many times which has left scores of them dead and wounded.

Taliban has not commented on the report so far. (Tolo news)

### (15) Farmers Harvest...

exported saffron was sent to Saudi Arabia through the air corridor over the past five months.

"Saffron export was best this year. We continue our efforts to help farmers to increase their harvest so that we can boost our export," Mohmand said.

Figures by Ministry of Agriculture show that Afghanistan is the third biggest saffron producer in the world after Iran and India. (Tolo news)

### (16) Fate of 23 Passengers...

Zabihullah Amani, the governor's spokesman, said the passengers had been kidnapped by a local Taliban commander named Mehdi Mujahid. He said efforts were underway to release the abductees.

However, the Taliban denied having hand in the kidnapping saga. Zabihullah Mujahid, the group spokesman, in a statement said their fighters had not abducted the civilians.

Balkh provincial council chief Mohammad Afzal Hadid told Pajhwok that efforts should be stepped up through local people besides security forces for securing the release of the 23 passengers.

He also said they had received reports the abductees had been taken to Kohistan district of Sar-i-Pul province. He said the kidnapping could be a result of ethnic or political rivalry or might be kidnapped for money.

Mohammad Ali, a relative of one of the abductees, said they were still struggling with identifying the kidnappers. He said all the kidnapped passengers were ordinary people including his cousin.

He said his cousin had no personal enmity with anyone and he didn't know the motive behind the kidnapping. He urged security organs to release all passengers immediately. (Pajhwok)

### (17) Herat Intelligence...

and Mullah Nangyali loyal to Mullah Rassoul splinter group.

Mullah Samad lost 18 fighters and Mullah Nangyali 10 to the fierce clashes with another 17 rebels sustaining wounds.

The provincial intelligence chief, Maj Matin, was killed after Taliban gunmen ambushed a convoy of security forces heading to the scene.

The Taliban also confirmed the infighting in Shindand district. (Pajhwok)